



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: G. Ernesto

Art Unit: 3629

In re:

Applicant: WESTERMANN

Serial No.: 09/319,842

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

February 1, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, the following information is submitted herewith:

In the corresponding German application the following prior art was cited:

EP 0 655 373
US 5 289 608

In the corresponding PCT application the following prior art was cited:

EP 0 655 373
FR 2 631 300
GB 2 156 666
SE 226 017

European patent document EP 0 655 373 shows a bearing element with side walls which are connected to each other by a hub and lateral struts. So far as the side walls are able to guide the wiper arms, they have a same clearance to both sides of the hub and/or to the bearing surfaces at the lateral struts so that they can only match with one width of wiper arms. The hub and the lateral struts are so shaped that wiper arms with different bending radii and different material thickness can be used; however, no wiper arms with different widths. Contrary to the known bearing element the bearing element in accordance with the invention is designed so that it can be used, in addition, with wiper arms with two different widths. Thus the requirements for more cases of application can be covered by only one kind of the bearing element.

This reference does not disclose the new features of present invention which are defined in the amended claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 5,289,608 shows in Figures 2 and 3 upper and lower horizontal seats 22, 23 for hook portions with different widths and bending radii. However, it does not teach the new features of present invention.

French patent 2 631 300 shows in Figure 2 bends to reduce the clearance of the side walls, however it does not teach the new features of present invention as well.

British patent GB 2 156 666 shows in Figures 4, 9 and 11 a two piece connector for wiper arm with different bending radii, different material thicknesses and different widths. It does not teach the new features of present invention also.

The patent document SE 226 017 is not relevant to the present invention and does not teach the new features of present invention.

The list of the references together with copies of the references are submitted herewith.

The required fee is also submitted herewith. If the fee is missing or insufficient, please charge the required fee to the account of the undersigned 19-4675.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Striker
Reg. No. 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743
(631)549-4700